



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL INCREASES ENFORCEMENT FOR THANKSGIVING TRAVEL PERIOD

*~ Efforts aim to reduce the number of crashes during the holiday ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Thanksgiving holiday is a peak travel period for families nationwide, including Florida, with its inviting climate and numerous vacation options. Because Thanksgiving typically produces a high volume of motor vehicle traffic, the Florida Highway Patrol will increase its presence on Nov. 23 - 27. All state troopers will patrol Florida's high-volume roadways during the five-day period. Auxiliary and reserve troopers will volunteer to augment the Patrol.

Troopers will direct their enforcement efforts toward impaired driving, speeding, following too closely and other aggressive driving behaviors. In addition, troopers will conduct strict enforcement of safety belt and child restraint laws.

“The Thanksgiving holiday typically generates heavy traffic as people travel to spend time with their families, so we urge everyone driving on our highways, especially during the holiday season, to drive carefully,” said Col. David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. “Allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination safely, drive sober and buckle up on each and every trip. The holidays are a time for celebration, but we cannot forget safety behind the wheel.”

The Florida Highway Patrol offers tips to help you and your family arrive at your destination safely:

- Get plenty of rest before setting out on a long trip.
- Observe and obey all speed limits.
- Allow plenty of time to reach your destinations.
- Drive sober, and only sober.
- Buckle up!
- Eliminate distractions: Texting, talking on the phone, eating, adjusting the stereo – these are all examples of things that can take your eyes and attention off the road, which is exactly what you want to avoid.
- Prepare your vehicle: Check fluids for proper levels, i.e. oil and gas; inspect your windshield wipers for wear; and ensure your tires have adequate pressure and are in good condition.

Call \*FHP (\*347) to report intoxicated or aggressive drivers, or if your vehicle breaks down and you need assistance. To request immediate emergency services, dial 911.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) or follow us on Twitter @[FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV). You can find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/flhsmv), too.

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